

# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

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NO. 2.

S. R. KIRBY, M. D. AND R. A. SNOW, M. D., EDITORS.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1847.

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*Homœopathy disapproves of artificial salivation, of the continued use of so called tonics, of emmenagogues, of antibilious and aperient and other palliative medicines.*

As it is an elementary principle of homœopathic treatment to adapt the remedy to the whole disorder in its most minute manifesta-

tion, it is evident that this system cannot approve of any of those remedial measures, which are calculated to remove one or a few prominent symptoms, or to produce one or a few artificial effects in order to cure disease. Thus it must necessarily disapprove of the indiscriminate use of stimulants to raise the energies of the patient; of refrigerants to diminish the temperature of the body, when it is preternaturally increased; of sudorifics to excite cutaneous transpiration; of diuretics to promote secretion of urine; of expectorants to induce evacuation from the larynx, trachea, and bronchia; of alkaline drugs, for the cure of acidity of the stomach; of the indiscriminate use of anodynes for pain; of narcotics to produce sleep; of astringents for diarrhœa; of emetics when resorted to as general curative means, &c. Our space would not allow us to enter fully into a justification of our dissent from the allopathic school on these various points; but we cannot omit stating, as briefly as possible, the reasons of our disapproval of several, which are most generally resorted to in ordinary practice.

### A. Salivation.—We hold:

a. *That it is unnecessary.*—The principal and almost exclusive means of producing salivation is mercury. The formidable effects of this metal on the body are known by every one, and there will be no dissentient voice from the assertion, that if salivation thus produced can be profitably avoided, it is the duty of every prudent man to do so. The beneficial effects of salivation on the disease may be palliative or directly curative. In the first instance the disease for the cure of which it is intended, is only temporarily displaced from its principal seat by the production of another artificial disease, namely, a violent affection of the salivary glands. It may thus lead to a temporary suspension of the original disease, but having no specific relation to it, the mor-

bid process is not radically extinguished. Therefore it ought to be rejected like all other palliatives, particularly in chronic disorders. In the second place it may lead to a radical cure, if mercury is the specific for the disease, which is to be cured by it. In these cases we maintain that all the good effects of the medicine may be obtained by small doses of mercury without resorting to such a violent measure as salivation. Pereira says, "It is not supposed that salivation is the cause of the benefit derived, but it is produced in order that we may be satisfied that the constitution is sufficiently influenced by the medicine." Homœopathic preparations of mercury sufficiently influence the constitution for all curative purposes, *if mercury is the right medicine for the case.*

*b. It is unsafe, and in many cases highly injurious.*—Like all other medicines mercury does not always produce the same effects on all persons, and the susceptibility of the salivary glands of being affected by it, is exceedingly different in different individuals. Frequently salivation cannot be produced at all, or only by large and long continued doses. In those cases the great quantity of the drug employed must necessarily produce its effects in other directions, and instances are far from being unfrequent, where chronic liver complaint, swelled glands, chronic head-ache, yellowness of teeth, mercurial rheumatism, swelling and caries of the bones, general exhaustion and emaciation, eruptions of the skin, chronic affections of the lungs, stomach, and bowels, are induced instead of salivation. On the other hand some persons are most violently affected by comparatively small quantities of mercury, and medical literature abounds in the description of cases which show, that often, in consequence of unexpected excessive salivation, the inside of the mouth becomes inflamed and ulcerated, the gums slough, the teeth loosen and drop out, the jaw-bones suppurate and mortify, the patient becomes extremely debilitated and emaciated, and may even die under convulsions. Pereira mentions the following ill effects as having been observed to arise from the injudicious use of mercury: "mercurial fever, excessive salivation, mercurial purging, excessive secretion of urine, profuse sweating, skin diseases both acute and chronic, inflammation and congestion of the eye, fauces and periosteum; enlargement of the inguinal, axillary and mesenteric glands; ulceration and

sloughing of the mouth, throat, fibrous membranes and absorbent glands; wandering pains, a tremulous condition of the muscular system; sometimes accompanied with stammering, and occasionally terminating in paralysis, epilepsy, or apoplexy; asthma, amaurosis, hypochondriasis, disorder of the digestive organs, loss of appetite, wasting, incapability of much exertion with increased secretion from all the organs, especially from the salivary glands." Would it not be wise to avoid even the remotest chance of such consequences, by avoiding mercurial salivation?

*B. The continued use of commonly so called Tonics.* This euphonious term has been applied to a great number of medicines, principally to those which have a bitter or astringent taste, and are said to strengthen and invigorate the body when in a relaxed and debilitated condition. There is some truth, but also a great amount of error in this assertion. Debility itself is generally nothing more than one symptom among many, and though it may form the most prominent part of the disease, yet it is not the whole disease. If debility is the only point that a person complains of, it is not disease, and may arise from long abstinence from food, or, as in simple convalescence, be the consequence of former disease; in both cases nourishment is the only real tonic. As soon as morbid symptoms accompany debility, any medicine, whether bitter, astringent, or not, which is calculated to remove the totality of the symptoms, will also remove the debility, and therefore be the proper tonic. Thus, for instance, bark is frequently a specific remedy for that kind of debility which arises from loss of blood and other juices necessary for the healthy functions of the body, not because it is bitter and astringent, but because it produces on the body in health a characteristic kind of debility, such as arises from the causes just mentioned; and neither quassia, gentian, columbo, rhatany, kino, nor any other tonic from among the large class usually so termed, would be the proper medicine. This is the only rational principle upon which tonics should be administered in disease, and thus far Homœopathy admits of them. But when bitters and astringents and other so called tonics are given indiscriminately, and without considering their specific relation to each individual case, as is generally done in Allopathy, Homœopathy disapproves of them.—*Concise view, &c.*

(To be continued.)

## NEW YORK ACADEMY.

To JOHN STEARNS, M. D.

Sir: There has just been laid on my table a small brochure, which purports to be "*An Address, delivered on the occasion of assuming the chair as President, at the first regular meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, Feb. 3, 1847,*" by yourself, in which are statements I am induced to notice, by several considerations. They appear accompanied by the sanction of the body over which you have been called to preside. They are published "*by order of the Academy,*" a body containing in its list of members many names long associated in this community with ideas of dignity of character, high professional and scientific attainment, and with much that is excellent in the varied relations of life—names high in the ranks of learning and influence—whose integrity has rarely been sullied—whose veracity never questioned. As president of the Academy, you may be regarded as the representative of its wisdom, science, learning, and influence. This removes your statements far from the petty slanders, pitiful jests, and careless misrepresentations, concerning Homœopathia, so freely circulated and often repeated at the present day. These have been easily perpetrated, easily endured, and perfectly harmless in their results. Experience has proved the wisdom of the judgment which passed them by in silence. But when the "N. Y. Academy of Medicine" speaks, either through its president, or by its associated acts, or, as in the present instance, in both ways, much more importance may be supposed to attach to its utterings. When it speaks to assault, those assailed have a right to expect, nay, to demand, that it speak the truth. All its character is pledged to this. And yet, in the instance before me, I am grieved and pained to perceive this claim entirely disregarded. If this be a specimen of the means by which you hope to "*regain the confidence of the community,*"\* your enemies may have occasion to rejoice. It is matter of deep regret that this body, a self-constituted guardian of the community against imposition in matters pertaining to your profession, should in this, its first act, have given so unequivocal evidence that the community have need of protection against itself. These are some of the

reasons which urge me so far to depart from the course hitherto followed, when Homœopathia has been attacked by other weapons than arguments, as to notice so much of your brief address as relates to that subject. If any are ready to say this involves a sacrifice of that self-respect which has heretofore imposed silence, my justification is found in the age, and consideration, social and professional, which you have yourself attained, and in the character of the individual members of the Academy, and this is deemed sufficient, however false or puerile your statements may be, or however harmless, divested of these sanctions.

With the first seven pages and a half of your address, wherein you speak so earnestly of the delusions, impositions and innovations in medicine, from which our race have suffered so abundantly, and do still suffer, I have nothing now to do, further than to crave to mingle my sympathies for the suffering with yours and those of the Academy, and to add to yours my condemnation and aversion of those whose victims they have been. But, when you speak of Homœopathia, you speak of another subject, with which it were well if you and the body you represent were better acquainted—well for yourselves, and thrice well for that suffering public you so justly commiserate. I may add, there would have been propriety in making the acquaintance before you had spoken so plainly and so publicly.

On page 8, after the pertinent question, "Do I possess the faculty of reason?" a question I am not called on to decide, you give your views of some of the uses of reason, with which I have no controversy, and then declare—"If the fundamental principles of the Organon be true, I have given an erroneous definition of reason, for it meets those principles with a decided contradiction." Here I am ready to join issue with you at once and deny the truth of your assertion. You are not ignorant that a denial is as good as an assertion till it is *proved* true. I challenge the *proof* of the truth of your declaration, that the fundamental principles of the Organon contradict any of the dictates of right reason. Do you know what those principles are? "*Similia similibus curantur!*" Like is cured by like. You have seen the declaration before—it is not new to you—which of the dictates of sound reason have your numerous experiments in practice, to test its truth, found it to contradict? Doubtless you have made such experiments—you ought to have made them—it is to be presumed you and the

\* See Dr. Manly's remarks at the meeting preliminary to the organization of the Academy.

Academy have—will you publish them, that they may be seen? The above declaration is believed to contain a truth by thousands of physicians, many of them, I doubt not, men of as sound minds and complete education as yourself or the members of the Academy. They believe this, not because it is the first "fundamental principle" of the Organon, but because years of experiment and observation by themselves have proved its truth.

The second "principle" declares, a *Materia Medica* should consist only of a record of the facts found to result from giving medicines to men in health. That thus, and thus only, the pure effects of drugs can be ascertained. The declaration is commended to the early and favorable regard of yourself and the Academy, as a fact of no mean importance. When you have ascertained, tell us which of the dictates of reason it violates.

It is another fundamental principle of the Organon, that *all* the facts pertaining to a case of disease shall be known before attempting to prescribe for its cure, and in this I fail to discover anything unreasonable. The directions there given for the attainment of this end are believed to be valuable, most valuable. You will find them from page 126 to 132 inclusive. Another principle is, when you have this perfect knowledge of the disease, and the knowledge of drugs obtained by trial on the healthy, that that drug be selected for the cure whose effects most resemble the facts presented by the disease, and further, when the remedy has been thus ascertained, that it be given in such doses as sound experience proves to cure most promptly, certainly, and safely. Is there anything unreasonable in this? I have remarked, before the publication of your address, that the great difficulty the school to which you belong meets in the Organon and Homœopathia, is in the dose. Though it be no great thing in itself, it somehow is so unnaccountably magnified in your view, as effectually to obscure the other great truths here presented, by which you might so profitably be instructed.

Another principle is, to give but one medicine at a time; and still another, that this one be permitted to expend its action before it is repeated or another given. These are the most important of the fundamental principles of the Organon. I present them thus in a series, that you may the more conveniently point out their unreasonableness at your leisure.

Again, on page 8, you say, "Reason teaches me that the power of any remedial agent essen-

tially depends on the number of grains, ounces, or pounds of which that agent consists," &c. The sentence is a little loose. I am not perfectly certain I understand your meaning. If you mean by "power of any remedial agent," its power to cure, as it seems most likely you do, I am not prepared to deny that both yourself and the Academy believe the assertion; but I am fully prepared to deny that any other man was ever so taught. If it be a truth, and you know it, I venture the opinion you have been taught it by experience and observation; and not by any process of ratiocination. If observation or right reason, or both together have taught you this truth, it is to be presumed you carry it faithfully into your practice. That in such cases as in your judgment may be cured by Tartrate of Antimony, Morphine, Strichnine, or Quinine, instead of restricting yourself to grains and small fractions of grains of these drugs, as the majority of your school do who are not yet enlightened in this important principle as you seem to be, you avail yourself of its full value, and give them in drachms, ounces, or even pounds in difficult cases. We are sometimes less taught by reason than we fondly fancy. I commend this declaration of yourself and the Academy to your and their calm and careful review.

You farther say, page 9, "But Hahnemann contradicts this position, [*i. e.* the position which is the subject of the preceding paragraph] and maintains directly the reverse." I do not know that it is necessary to defend this declaration of the Great Master, but it may not be amiss to attempt to state what he has taught on this subject, so plain, if possible, that neither yourself nor the Academy may have excuse for mistaking him hereafter. There seems to have been a great, and some have thought a needless, difficulty with the gentlemen of your school in this matter. Many, doubtless unintentional, mistakes and misstatements have been made by them on this subject, and yet there would seem to be no great difficulty in understanding what he means to say, and none at all in proving what he says false, if indeed it be so. But this can be done only in one way—a way with which you seem less familiar than with a certain kind of reasoning—*viz.* the way of experiment. What I understand Hahnemann to have said is not that there is more power to cure in the less quantity than in the greater, as has often been asserted, but that in crude drugs there is much latent curative power which can be made active. He



professes to teach a method by which this may be developed, and made available for the relief of the sick. So that, to illustrate his idea, if it be necessary, if a grain of a given crude drug possess curative power equal to the relief of one case of disease, if all its latent curative power be developed as directed, it may be adequate to the relief of ten cases. Not that there is more absolute power to cure in a millionth of a grain than in the whole grain. I am not perfectly sure that the New York Academy has not, through its President, made an assertion nearly as absurd as this would be. I am certain Hahnemann never did.

Again, page 9, "In attempting to explain the precise objects which he intended to accomplish by such an extraordinary publication, I can arrive at no other conclusion than that the whole of his *Organon* was prepared for the express purpose of ascertaining how far he could successfully practice deception and imposition on the credulity and prejudices of the community," &c. This declaration is not a little calculated to surprise if its source be borne in mind, and then it be viewed in the light of a few facts. You say this of the *whole Organon*, and yet it is worthy of remark, and I commend the fact to your notice, that the first 77 pages of that book are made up largely of quotations from the writings of more than two hundred of the brightest and best names in the annals of Allopathic medicine, names scattered through the whole period of more than two thousand years, from the days of Hippocrates to the days of Hufeland, and all testifying to the truth of the fundamental principles of that book! If these are the authorities by which imposition is to be made successful—if these have been the great impostors of the ages in which they have lived, it remained for yourself and the Academy to make the discovery. The whole honor belonging to such rare penetration and just sentiment is peculiarly your own. But, it may be fairly asked, when such names as Sydenham, Sauvages, Beddoes, Hamilton, Cullen, Huxham, Sloan, Bell, Van Helmont, Boerhaave, Wepfer, Stahl, Brera, Hoffman, Stoercke, Richter, Vogel, Fallopius, Helvetius, Willis, Willan, Michaelis, and the remaining host who testify with them, are thus unceremoniously thrust into the ranks of the base and depraved, where will the New York Academy and its president be found?

Again, page 9, "Poisons and narcotics constitute the corner-stone of the Homœopathic edifice. Deprived of these, their whole system

of *Materia Medica* would be demolished." After this declaration, it would be interesting and edifying to know of what your own corner-stone is composed, and where it may be found. In order to its full appreciation, you should remember to whom it was directed and for whom it was written. It appears addressed to the New York Academy,—a body of learned, intelligent, honorable, high-minded physicians. It is matter of profound astonishment, the daring which risked the statement, based, as it must have been, on the presumed ignorance of that body of both its own *Materia Medica* and that of which you speak. And yet, strange as it does appear, you were perfectly safe in your presumption. If they had known their own, every man of them would have replied to the President, "Why, Doctor, in this respect their *Materia Medica* is just like ours. There is no difference at all." And they would have spoken the truth. They certainly would have so spoken, for they are all honorable men, far above perpetrating the petty trick of issuing such a declaration to excite popular alarm by the force of frightful and sounding words. And yet it is "published by order of the Academy." For your own information and theirs, it may not be amiss to state, that the Homœopathic *Materia Medica* is composed of a record of the facts found to result from giving medicines to men in health. That it contains a record thus made of all the most important drugs in daily use by the members of the Allopathic school, and treated of in their *Materia Medica*. In addition to these, it contains the record of effects of many medicines not found either in your practice or *Materia Medica*, but that there is any essential difference in the two, in the article of their treating of "narcotics and poisons," is wholly and unqualifiedly false. I do not mean to say you and the Academy knew it to be false, when you wrote the sentence at the head of this paragraph, and they ordered it published. You probably did not. And hence the justness of the remark, that there would have been propriety in your informing yourselves before speaking so publicly and so plainly. That you were not so informed is the more unaccountable, as the means of becoming so are within the reach of you all, and especially, as when Homœopathia is the subject of remark, the gentlemen of your school so generally assume to know all about it.

Again, page 9, "The alleviation of pain by narcotics gives to their practice all its popularity." If you mean that Homœopathic physi-

ans narcotize their patients to relieve their pains, *i.e.* paralyze their sensations by giving drugs you call narcotics, it is easy to understand you, and the question is a fair one, how, when, and where you learned the fact? How came you acquainted with the means by which they relieve the sick? Are you in the secrets of their practice? There are in the United States something more than 1000 physicians in the practice of Homœopathia who have been educated in the learning of the Allopathic schools, the practice of which they have abandoned. I am not acquainted with either the persons or practice of all of them, and yet I know many. There are about twice this number in Europe, whom I know only through their writings. With these I have some acquaintance, and yet, neither in the practice nor writings of any Homœopathist, have I known narcotism resorted to or recommended for the relief of any pain or disease whatever. It may have been done by those who call themselves Homœopathic physicians. I do not know that it has not. If so, I leave them to the full force of the anathemas of the Academy. They deserve them richly, however bitter. But in this misdemeanor, both you and they should remember, they only returned again to the practice of your school. They abandoned that of the new, of which narcotizing for the relief of pain, or for any other purpose, makes no part. This belongs emphatically to the practice of your own school, and I am certain if it could have given popularity to any system, we should never have heard the lamentation of Dr. Manly, that it had "lost the confidence of the community"—the "New York Academy of Medicine" would never had existence, and you had never been president.

You speak of the motives of those who have abandoned your school, and afterwards have been guilty of imposture and injury in the community, and if they be what you represent, they are by no means flattering. I will tell you and the Academy the motives which have induced those of my acquaintance who have abandoned it and adopted the practice of the new. They have found a better method of relieving pain than *narcotism*,—better means of curing the sick than nauseous, multiferous, unknown compounds,—better views of disease than those which rest on vague imaginations,—and better views of the human organization than those which seem to suppose it made up entirely of "stomach and bowels." The popularity of Homœopathia you admit—

that it is popular *because it relieves pain*, you declare, and the Academy endorse your declaration. I submit to your and their consideration that it is popular because successful, and successful because of the right use of the means and views above suggested.

Sir,—I have done with your brief address. Other parts might be noticed, but to do so does not come within the scope of my plan or duty. The self-complacency with which you contemplate and comment on Allopathic perfection and success may be suffered to pass as an innocent amusement. If you and the Academy derive satisfaction or comfort from the survey of such a subject, I give you joy. I would not willingly disturb a pleasure derived from so barren a source.

The suggestion you have heard, that the "clergy are advocates of Homœopathy," is to a considerable extent true. If you or the Academy call on them in a respectful manner for their reasons for so doing, I doubt not they will give such as will be perfectly satisfactory to minds so unprejudiced as yours undoubtedly are. As a class, they may be safely left to their own defence.

In conclusion, allow me to present my acknowledgements to yourself and the Academy that you have so frankly and plainly declared your impressions on this subject. That they were false may not have been your fault. I do not so understand it. Now that they are corrected, my estimate of your and their character for integrity of purpose and motive, gives me full assurance that you will not be found of that number who persist in the repetition of falsehood after it has been exposed, or who cling to opinions when discovered to be unfounded on truth.

Yours, very respectfully,  
P. P. WELLS, M.D.

Brooklyn, April 13th, 1847.

#### REFORM IN MEDICINE.

We stated on p. 253, vol. I. of the Journal, that a reform in the old school practice was declared by the leading minds in that school to be not only necessary but resolved upon. That it was by them admitted that the principles which had heretofore, and for centuries, governed them in the treatment of disease, were uncertain—the practice resulting from an application of these principles generally useless and often bad, and that the great laws which

are to establish and govern the medical art remain yet to be discovered.

We stated that we intended to show from the recent writings of the prominent men in the allopathic school, 1st, That a reform is necessary; 2d, The means proposed to effect it; and 3d, That homœopathy is in possession of the true means by which medicine is made perfect as a science.

We quoted from Dr. Forbes on "Homœopathy, Allopathy and Young Physic," to show that a reformation is necessary and projected, and we are not aware that this fact so palpably true and so universally known to be true is denied or opposed by many members of the allopathic school, besides those of the New York Academy. Time in our opinion will completely demonstrate the folly of this conservative movement of the Academy; and that they will find that the walls which they have erected and by which they have surrounded themselves to keep out homœopathy, will also hide them from the public, and that to *regain the confidence of the community* they must seek and promote, not hide themselves from and obstruct the truth.

We give some "extracts from correspondence" published in "the British and Foreign Medical Review" by John Forbes M. D., F. R. S., etc.

This correspondence was called forth by the article on *homœopathy and allopathy* and was made public in the hope that it might tend to promote the object with which that article was written, viz., "the improvement of practical medicine," the reformation of therapeutics, which is believed "to be absolutely necessary and inevitable."

We quote from the 'extracts'; "I thank you much for having written the article. The fulness of time has come in which *all this matter should be exposed fully and clearly.*"

"Some of the opinions you have expressed I have entertained for many long years; others I have arrived at more lately. \* \*

"I have been getting more and more of the opinion, that in most chronic diseases, diet and regimen will have a great influence,—drugs rarely any very decisive good effect, and often an injurious effect only. Acute diseases can, ordinarily, be much mitigated and somewhat shortened. But an exception must be made in regard to such as we call malignant, (yellow fever, Asiatic cholera;) and, as to shortening, in reference to the exanthemata. I have long deprecated the idea that

medicines (drugs) are necessary in the treatments of all diseases.

"I have been unwilling to say that my patients who recovered were *cured* by me; for I endeavored to cure all of them, and claimed to have done it, even when they died. In our hospital opened twenty odd years ago, I would not allow the record books to say that so many patients had been *cured*, as is a common practice; but that so many were discharged well, &c.

"For forty years and more have I been called to attempt the relief of suffering by medical and surgical administration; the result of my observation has been that drugs are frequently more injurious than beneficial, particularly where the *course of disease is established*; the glimpses of truth which have occasionally enlightened me now shine out broadly in your philosophical treatise. I heartily congratulate you on your having the moral courage to be its author, and sincerely believe it will do more service in the improvement of medical practice than any publication of the present day.

"I have learned to look upon the prevention of disease as the true aim of the medical man. I have seen enough both in hospital and private practice to feel disgusted at the *authorized quackery even of highly intelligent and highly educated men.* \* \* \*

What more melancholy fact can be presented to the mere prescriber when he first enters the duties of his profession than the continual assurance of the Nestors of our profession that the greater our experience the more positive the conviction that we can *do nothing.*

"One of the first points that the junior members of the profession will anxiously wish to receive advice upon in reference to the Natural History school I conceive to be 'how they are to observe' in how far they are to continue to act according to the hereditary doctrines, and in how far they dare trust their own discretion in treading in the footsteps of nature. *It is no trifling matter for a beginner to be cast upon the sea of doubt without a sure beacon to steer his skiff by,* and some regard ought to be had for the mental distress of those whose energy is not sufficient to carry them through the dangers that beset all innovators, and still are possessed of sufficient '*ingenium*' to feel that they are not in the right path.

"The good fortune I have had, ever since the commencement of my medical studies, of residing in large hospitals, necessarily famil-

iarized me early with the natural history of disease. \* \* \*

"I have arrived at the conviction that in inflammation and fever our drugs prove rather mischievous than useful; and that nature has then to overcome both the disease and the effect of the said drugs. \* \* \*

"Calm observation at the bed-side, an unbiased review of circumstances, long practical study of pathological processes at the dissecting table, demonstrate the untenable nature of all those fancies which have, alas, been handed down from generation to generation.

"The general scope of your paper I take to be to combat this mistake (*the empirical use of powerful remedies*) and I hope that it will be the means of bringing about an improvement in our practice. The table (Fleischmann's) you have given is curious, and could it be implicitly relied on, would prove to me at least that we had better, in some diseases, give up prescribing altogether. \* \* \* I trust that your paper will have a beneficial effect, by causing medical men to weigh the facts well before they come to a decision as to the effects of the medicines prescribed. I firmly believe that the cure is much oftener retarded by the medicines administered than it would be safe to say, in these times of advanced medical knowledge, and the mischief would be still greater were it not that much of the stuff sent to the patient is not swallowed by him.

(To be Continued.)

#### A LETTER FROM DR. DOUGLAS TO THE EDITORS.

Hamilton, Madison Co., Apr. 2d, 1847.

Gentlemen:—

I consider Dr. Joslin's address one of the most valuable recent additions to our homœopathic literature. It is surprising that such a man as Dr. Stearns can contrive to keep himself so long in such ignorance, and more surprising that he can have the hardihood to expose it as he has done in his address. A great man always renders himself greatly ridiculous, when like Dr. S., he attempts to discourse wisely upon a subject on which every sentence of his discourse demonstrates his profound ignorance.

A reference to the state of our science in this section may not be unacceptable. Four

years ago there was not a practitioner of our school in this county—there are now eight, all converts from the allopathic ranks, and several others are examining the subject. I believe the progress is about equal in several neighboring counties. It is eminently in this place, as it is to a great extent in every other, that our system has among its first and strongest advocates, men of science and intelligence. This being the locality of Madison University, several of its learned and able faculty were among the first to appreciate its great principles. It has now the confidence of a large portion of the most learned and intelligent of this place—a confidence that can never be shaken.

You desire from practitioners the results of experience. A source of incessant delight in the practice of our system is a daily demonstration of the specific powers of medicine which are available to the homœopathist almost exclusively. Permit me to illustrate this by a few cases of a single disease.

CASE I.—Last autumn I was called to visit a child that had been sick three days with the following more obvious symptoms, viz: Full, hard, quick pulse, hot, dry skin, extreme restlessness, delirium at night and evidently almost constant severe pain. A physician had been consulted who thought it affected with worms, and directed a vermifuge without any relief. On my first visit, the above named symptoms were urgent, and I suspected disease of the brain and directed Acon. and Bell, with but slight relief. At my next visit, a more careful examination convinced me that the pain which was now evidently very intense, was in the ear which was found to be swollen internally and tender to pressure. One dose of Pulsatilla of 2 gr. 6th, gave prompt relief to the fever and pain, the child went into a quiet sleep, and had no considerable pain or fever afterwards. Two repetitions completed the cure.

CASE II.—Last summer I saw a child about 9 months old that had been sick over 48 hours with intense fever, hot, dry skin, quick and hard pulse, and almost continual screaming in evident agony with scarcely a moments' sleep. On watching its motions for a while, I suspected that the pain was in the ear and that the fever was connected with inflammation of that organ. This was confirmed by the obvious pain produced by pressure on one ear, tho' no disease was visible.

On applying to my bottle of Puls. I found it,



to contain but one globule 6th. I dissolved this in several spoonfuls of water, and directed it to be repeated in spoonful doses till the patient was relieved, promising to see it when I should visit the place on the following day. The result was, that the first dose relieved it greatly, and the third cured it.

CASE III.—A few weeks since I was desired to see a child with an affection of the chest from cold. I found it with a burning skin, quick hard pulse, urgent thirst, short difficult respiration with rattling of mucous in the chest with an unusual amount of restlessness and apparent pain, for the disease which I regarded as an acute bronchial catarrh. I gave Acon., but on the following morning, all the symptoms had increased in severity. The case somewhat puzzled me, but it still seemed to me that Acon. was the appropriate remedy, and I directed it in increased doses. At night I was astonished to find no improvement. From some of its movements, I now suspected disease of the brain, and prescribed Bell. On the following morning, I found that the little sufferer had scarcely slept at all during the night, and had cried almost incessantly. The following were the symptoms: Respiration very rapid and laborious, threatening suffocation, pulse almost too rapid to be counted, skin dry and burning, urgent thirst, face red and puffed, he was continually tossing himself about, throwing back his head, stretching out his limbs and screaming in evident agony. I was alarmed and sat down to a deliberate observation of the case. I was led to examine the ears, and soon satisfied myself that one of them was the seat of the pain and the principal cause of the alarming train of symptoms. I felt at once relieved, and giving 2 gr. Puls. 6th, left with direction to repeat if necessary. On my next visit I was informed that in half an hour after taking the Puls. he was in a free perspiration for the first time since the attack, the pain and fever subsided, and he had since slept quietly. He had no return of urgent symptoms, and in 24 hours was free from every symptom of disease.

Yours truly,  
J. S. DOUGLAS.

#### NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

One of the "fellows" of this medical monastery has, we learn, been promptly expelled,

and another has been arraigned and is on trial for presuming to consult with homœopathic physicians.

It remains to be seen how far such a spirit of party bigotry and unjust prejudice may be carried, for either the personal interests of the parties exercising it, or for the promotion of truth and science. This organized attempt to stigmatize and libel worthy members of the medical profession, men educated in the same schools, familiar with all that belongs to medicine, possessing the same credentials as to their competency to practice their profession, as are held by those who thus seek to denounce them—not for any violation of legal enactments, moral obligation, or medical ethics, not for the empirical use of secret nostrums; but simply for administering medicines, the same in kind, *in small doses*—in doses, the superior utility and safety of which are confirmed by their own experience, and in regard to which their opponents have no experience—will, we opine, fail, either to reinstate these "fellows" in the confidence of the community, or stay for one moment the mighty reformation going on in practical medicine, and which will result in establishing homœopathy the only true system of therapeutics.

For ourselves we care not what course they may see fit to pursue. As we abjure their practice, we do not desire their counsel. In our own they are confessedly incompetent to decide, either as to its merits, or judicious application. For the sake of truth and the promotion of science, there are heads and hearts among them that we would gladly see engaged in a better cause, and rid of the blighting influence of a spirit at war with their own advancements.

#### HIGH POTENCIES.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM DR. LIPPE.

Carlisle, Pa. April 5th, 1847.

I have long been astonished that the high potencies are not more generally used, and as I am perfectly convinced that the higher potencies are more effective than the lower ones, I shall do all I can to bring them more into use, which will certainly be the case, when they can be had at a more reasonable price than they have heretofore been sold at. Did my time permit, I could communicate a great number of astonishing cures.

*Evidences of the power of Small Doses and Attenuated Medicines, including a theory of Potentization.* By B. F. JOSLIN, M. D., of New York.

The homœopathic doctrines are here clearly stated and successfully and ably defended. We find familiar and apt illustrations, pointed with keen wit, without deviation from the line of argument, and in language intelligible to ordinary readers without sacrifice of scientific precision. This is the most scientific and satisfactory explanation of the peculiar power of Hahnemann's preparations that has ever appeared and the first true theory of solution in general. This discourse tends to place Hahnemann in a conspicuous light as the inventor of a valuable physical process, as well as the discoverer of the law of cure, and to give homœopathy a new rank among the physical sciences. The following are some of its contents or topics: Fable of the Ass and the Steamboat; The Author's Conversion by experiments on himself; Homœopathia and Antipathia contrasted and tested; Allopathia wastes force in bruising sound parts, and cannot make small doses cure; Homœopathia can—for her medicine acts at the right point, and in the right direction, and when the parts are peculiarly susceptible, and the curative powers of the medicine exalted by a peculiar mode of preparation; Discovery of Potence; Relation of power to Quantity; *Theory of Potentization*;—Hahnemann invented a method of dividing the medicine into particles inconceivably minute—Its power depends on this—the old school use coarse drugs, and in the case of mercury, avail themselves of an imperfect division by which this inert substance becomes their most efficient medicine, while they deny without trial, the efficacy of the new attenuation; *Reasons why minute division gives Power*; Increase of active service; The action nearer; Minuteness of Human Pores; The Theory applied to Dilutions; *New Theory of Solution*; Dissolved Substances suspended in complex Groups; Analysis of the forces concerned.

Dr. Joslin's homœopathic brethren have reason to thank him for this lucid exposition of their doctrines, and may justly feel proud of having in their ranks so ripe a scholar and so able a physician. E. B.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

## HOMŒOPATHY IN N. HAMPSHIRE.

Dr. Joshua F. Whittle of Nashua N. Hampshire, writes us under date of April 26th, 1847, that he has been in that place over three years, and that homœopathy is rapidly on the increase, and thinks it must be the prevailing practice in a short time.

F. A. W. of Lexington, Ky., is informed that the quack advertisement to which he alludes in the "Observer and Reporter" cannot deceive any one, who could by possibility be protected by any thing we might say. Give the people knowledge to enable them to distinguish a genuine physician, from one that is not, and quackery will soon end. The people detest quackery, but heretofore, a kind of necessity has been laid upon them, to employ advertising doctors" and use advertised medicines, because the allopathic practice had failed to give relief. The sin of quackery lies at the door of allopathy. She has been the cause of its introduction and continuance in the world. It is the province of Homœopathy to expel the one and the other, for an ignominious will make sad work if he attempts to practice homœopathy, and as has been the case in many instances of our own knowledge he is soon detected, and public confidence withdrawn from him.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our thanks are due to Dr. R. S. Bryan of Troy, N. Y.; Dr. S. W. Graves, Taunton, Mass.; Dr. F. R. McManus, Baltimore, Md.; Dr. C. F. Harris, Binghamton, N. Y. and Dr. A. Fehr, Lexington, Ky., for lists of subscribers.

Would not Physicians of our school find their interest promoted by extending the circulation of this Journal throughout the country? We know that many believe so, and have acted accordingly. Subscriptions may be paid to any Postmaster, or remitted by mail to the editors.

Dr. JOSLIN'S ADDRESS. Extra copies of No. 23, vol. I, of the Journal, containing Dr. J.'s Address, may be had on application by letter or otherwise to Chas. G. Dean, No. 2 Ann-st 20 copies for \$1.

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We again call the attention of our Homœopathic brethren to the Meeting of the American Institute of Homœopathy, to be held in Boston on the second Wednesday of June next. A preliminary meeting will be held on the evening previous, also a meeting of the Committee of Elections on the same evening.

Edward Bayard, M. D., of this city, is to deliver an Address before the Institute, on the evening of the first day of the session. It is expected that the occasion will be one of great interest to the cause of Homœopathy in this country, and it is hoped that its practitioners who desire its advancement will be present in large numbers from every part of the Union.

THE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS of the American Institute of Homœopathy, will meet in Boston on the evening preceding the meeting of the Institute, June 8th, to receive credentials and examine candidates for membership. The following is an extract from the by-laws of the Institute, which gives the necessary information to those interested. "Any person who shall have pursued a regular course of medical studies, according to the requirements of the existing medical institutions of our country, and shall have obtained a certificate of three members of the Institute as to his good moral character and general standing, addressed to the committee on elections, and by them found properly qualified in the theory and practice of homœopathia, and so reported to the Institute, may be elected a member thereof, upon the payment of two dollars."

W. WILLIAMSON, M. D., Phila.

F. R. McMANUS, M. D., Baltimore.

JAMES M. QUIN, M. D., N. Y. city.

ELIPHALET CLARK, M. D., Portland Me.

SAM'L GREGG, M. D., Boston.

Committee.

W. WILLIAMSON, Chairman.  
Phila. May 8th, 1847.

#### AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

This is the title of an association formed last week in Philadelphia, Pa., by a convention of Allopathic physicians from twenty-two States.

We have not room for extended remarks, as the proceedings have only just reached us, as

reported in a newspaper. An official report will soon be published. From a hasty perusal of the newspaper report, we do not discover that any very important measures were adopted nor resolutions passed. No allusion was made to the reformation going on in the Allopathic school of medicine in Europe, and encouraged and participated in by many of the older and wiser practitioners in this country. They did pass resolutions that the standard of medical education ought to be raised; and, recommending the passage of laws by the Legislatures of the several States, requiring the registration of marriages, births, and deaths.

Dr. H. C. Parker of Manchester, N. Hampshire, in a letter to us dated 5th inst, says, in alluding to Dr. Brown's case reported in this Journal, Vol 2. No. 1. "That case disturbed me very much, as it seemed to add more proof to the fact, that I had lost a similar case in my first attempt to practice our art—but I was frightened from the track and did not rely on homœopathy. Since that time, I have had two cases, which appeared as desperate and hopeless, but were *happily* cured with Aconite and Belladonna." Dr. P. says further: "I had rather endure the loss of patronage and the opposition of the ignorant, than to butcher mankind for dollars and cents."

The friends of Homœopathy in Washington, D. C., can obtain this Journal, by leaving their names with W. ADAMS, of that city.

Those who may desire to subscribe for this Journal in Boston, may do so at OTIS CLAPP'S Book Store, 12 School-street.

Those subscribers who require Nos. 3 and 4 to complete the First Volume, will be supplied in a short time; and those who may want the 1st Volume of this Journal, bound, can obtain it in a few days, by sending orders to Chas. G. Dean, No 2 Ann Street, New York city.—Price \$1 50, sets unbound \$1 00.

The friends of Homœopathy in Philadelphia can have this Journal delivered at their houses, on the day of publication, by leaving their names with C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North Fourth Street.

**NOTICE.**—The American Institute of Homœopathy will hold its Fourth Anniversary meeting at the Masonic Temple, Tremont-st., Boston, on the second Wednesday of June next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

A Preliminary Meeting will be held at the same place, on the previous evening, June 8th, at 8 o'clock.

EDWARD BAYARD, M. D.

New York, April 22, 1847.

Gen'l. Sec.

**OTIS CLAPP, No. 12 School-st., Boston,** has on hand, and for sale wholesale and retail, a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; arnica flowers, sugar of milk, pure alcohol, distilled water, pellets, etc. Physician's pocket and family cases of medicines on hand and prepared to order, also a complete assortment of Homœopathic Books which are offered to the trade, and at retail as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

#### SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

No. 488 Broadway, corner of Broome street. J. T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epp's Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, &c.

**HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY AT THE Apollo Rooms, 410 Broadway.** Open daily (Sunday excepted,) at 12, M.

Physicians in attendance, Mondays and Thursdays, Drs. Kirby and Barlow; Tuesdays, Dr. Cook and Snow; Wednesdays and Saturdays, Drs. Quin and Bowers; Fridays, Drs. Bayard and Allen.

#### CLEVELAND HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Up stairs, corner Superior st. and Public Square. B. H. BARTLETT respectfully informs Homœopathic Physicians, and others, that he has for sale, warranted, the principal HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES, in their different triturations and dilutions; Pure Spirits of Wine, for preparing and preserving medicines; Distilled water, prepared for immediate use; Refined Sugar of Milk; Pure Globules or Pellets, Vials, Corks, Diet Papers and Labels. Arnica Flowers and Arnica plaster.

Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homœopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Hering's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow, New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

**GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway.** Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions; also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., by A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.